

The St. John's Messenger

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JUNE 2013

The Importance of Learning

Studying God's Word is important! Here is a true story to illustrate how Christian education for children and adults preserves the faith of those who learn and helps spread the gospel to others. This story is taken from the May 2013 edition of "Preach the Word", a newsletter for WELS pastors.

Almost 500 years ago, a group of families moved to where a mine had opened in the present-day Czech Republic. They named their new town Joachimsthal. That silver mine produced the metal for the coins in their area, which became known as "Thalers," from which we get our English word, "dollars."

The year after they founded their town, Martin Luther nailed the Ninety-Five Theses to the church door at Wittenberg, and the Reformation began.

The mining families all became Lutheran. Their story is told by Christopher Boyd Brown in his book, "Singing the Gospel." The townspeople opened and supported two Lutheran elementary schools, one for the boys and one for the girls. They supported a number of pastors in a large congregation that contained, at its peak, 5,000 mining families.

Many of their legal and church records have been preserved, and what is striking is the documented evidence of each family being sure that the children learned Bible accounts, Luther's Small Catechism, Lutheran worship, and in particular, the words of dozens of good Lutheran catechetical hymns. All of that family catechetical work was supported by good catechetical preaching from the pulpit.

After imperial armies took over the territory and banned Lutheranism, a Roman Catholic priest named Franciscus Albanus was sent to the village. He had his doctoral degree from a college where they trained men to oppose the unconditional gospel. Franciscus Albanus worked hard in Joachimsthal. But the children under his care told him the truths of the Bible as they had learned them in Luther's Small Catechism. The men and women of the village patiently insisted on forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus as their Savior. And the families sang Lutheran hymns in public and private. Of course, there was strong cultural pressure to compromise the truth. But the people held firm. Even armies could not stop them.

Albanus was forced to begin reading through the Lutheran theological volumes stored in the Joachimsthal library in order to "strike the people with their own sword, and convince them out of their own writings."

Instead, he himself was convinced by the Holy Spirit. Albanus resigned from the priesthood and became a Lutheran pastor.

God's blessings are yours as you study his Word!

In Christ,
Pastor Draper

St. John's Mission statement:

*The continuing purpose of this congregation is to serve all people in God's world
with the gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.*

**Presidents Report to St Johns Church Council & Congregation
May 12, 2013**

The School year at St Johns is coming to a close. An awards program for the students and a farewell to Justin and Stacy Shrum was held Sunday May 12th after the 9 am service. It was amazing to see how the school program has come along in the last few years under the guidance of Pastor Draper and Mr. Rick.

Mr. Rick has a passion to see the students grow, not only spiritually and academically but physically as well. The soccer, basketball and track programs under his guidance and the support of parents have improved greatly from last year. He has helped our students be well rounded and he continually looks for ways to improve their educational experience at St Johns. This school year will complete his principle apprenticeship and he will be the called principal for St John's School as of July 1. Congratulate him in his new position, he certainly has put the effort into teaching and God has allowed him to excel!

Farewell to Justin and Stacy Shrum. It is hard to believe that it was 2 years ago that we called Stacy to be our K & Pre K teacher. It truly goes by quickly when busy working! Stacy has brought much to our program and has helped us on our way to state licensure. We thank her for the help and guidance she has given our program and mostly the care & learning she has given students and parents. We wish them the best as they move to Milwaukee and Justin continues on with his studies at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

I must also say a word of thanks to the rest of the Staff at St Johns School. Laurie Halvorson, Pastor and Sallie Draper, Grandpa & Grandma Draper, Mrs. Crabtree, Lisa Hillmann, Leo Moldan ,the student teachers and anyone else that is involved at the school. They all do exceptional work for our students and educational program. We may not have the newest building or material equipment but as a teaching & maintenance staff we have people that are second to none teaching our students God's Word, giving them an excellent education and administering activities. Thanks to all of you for your efforts.

Ascension service was held Thursday May 9th and we heard a review of the church year through song from our student and adult choirs. Jan Dittbenner deserves a big thank you for the work she does as choir director and Stacy Shrum as student music program teacher. Everyone that participates in the program does a wonderful job praising God's word in song. Thank you for the time you put into practices and the extra time preparing for and being at the services to sing!

A word about upcoming meetings, the boards and committees are preparing budgets for the upcoming 2013-14 fiscal year and will be voted on at the Electoral and Budget meeting June 23rd after the 9 am service. We will also have elections for various board and committee positions. Please attend and consider offering your services to one of the opportunities that are available.

In Christ,

Steve Windschitl
President, St John's Congregation

**Church Council Minutes
May 14, 2013**

Present: Mike Crabtree, Jerry Dittbenner, Shorty Haus, Andy Lochner, Jim Mielke, Dan Rick, Steve Windschitl, Dave Zimmerman, Tim Plath (MVL Principal) and Pastor Draper.

Pastor Draper opened the meeting with devotion and a prayer.

Minutes

Dave Zimmerman/Andy Lochner made a motion to approve the April 2013 minutes with the amendment to the elders to not release Tom Hale. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Services and activities at St. John's are going well.

Treasurer's Report

Andy Lochner/Dave Zimmerman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report for April 2013. Motion carried.

Council reviewed a preliminary budget and made some adjustments. Final budget recommendations will be voted on in June's Church Council meeting.

President's Report

Written report was presented.

Board of Elders

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke transfer in by affirmation of faith Bruce & Melissa Buessman and family; Aaron, John, Mary, Matthew, Ella, Elizabeth and Emma. Motion carried.

Principal & Board of Education

There was a report presented on coming changes to the school hot lunch program for next school year.

Dan Rick presented a positive spring sports report.

A motion was made by Jim Mielke/Shorty Haus to recognize Mr. Dan Rick as principal of St. John's Lutheran School and upper grade teacher as of July 1, 2013. Motion Carried.

There was discussion on the music teacher's responsibilities, amount of time involved and

salary.

Worship Committee

No report.

Maintenance Committee

There was discussion on various maintenance work and budget items.

Outreach

No report.

Stewardship

It was discussed about looking into congregational photo album in the future.

MVL/WELS

Principal Tim Plath was present at the church council meeting to discuss enrollment, future enrollment, current activities, communications, events, and future problems and solutions.

Endowment and Trust Fund Committee

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The appearance of the shape of the carpet in the narthex and the church proper was discussed.

The Board of Ed. Meets June 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

The next Elder's meeting is June 11th at 8:00 p.m.

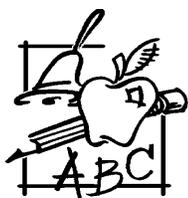
The next Church Council meeting will be held Thursday, June 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Shorty Haus/Jim Mielke made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Dittbenner Acting Secretary

Teacher Appreciation Week



The faculty of St. John's would like to thank parents and the PTO for the wonderful way we were honored during teacher appreciation week. The cards, flowers, gifts, and treats were very appreciated. We consider it a privilege to serve the Lord at St. John's and to teach his precious lambs.



MLC Ladies Auxiliary

The Martin Luther College Ladies Auxiliary met on Tuesday, April 23rd at St. John's for their Spring Area Meeting. 47 attendees began the evening with registration and a light pasta salad supper. Pastor Draper led an opening devotion before business announcements.

Professor William Pekrul shared the status of current projects on campus that the Auxiliary is funding. Beside three regular, standing annual projects, the Auxiliary has so far also funded 4 of the 16 projects selected for the year, including leveled readers (4 sets of 110 titles), a portable conductor's podium, toddler changing stations for the new Early Childhood Learning Center, and also whiteboards for language arts methods courses. A report of general campus activity was also shared, with emphasis on progress of the Early Childhood Center construction, which is well underway, and is scheduled to be open for use this fall.

Next, Tingting Zhau spoke to us about her education as well as her teaching experience at Martin Luther College. While advancing her education here in the US, she is also able to teach Mandarin to students.

A total of \$701 was collected for the offering, which will help support the projects of the auxiliary. The meeting was adjourned and we closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Windschitl

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society's Annual Convention will be held June 27-30 in LaCrosse, WI. It is still not too late to register! Please go to www.LWMS.com for details. St. John's will be represented by four from our congregation in attendance.

Thank you to all who took a moment to vote on the May national ballot. Positions for President, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth Leader, and Pastoral Advisor were on this year's ballot. World and Home mission projects were also voted on. Stay tuned for LOTS of information after the Convention to see what the results are and also hear about the convention in general.

This month, there are no specific persons in our Befriend a Mission assignment with birthdays or anniversaries. One note about the missionary to Cameroon, Dan Myers: He has been ill for some time, battling cancer. His condition has had its ups and downs, but he currently is struggling with some serious health issues. Prayers from our congregation are requested on his behalf and for his wife, Peggy, as they continue to deal with the challenges they face.

Your sister in Christ,
Paula Windschitl, reporter



WKW Update-May 2013

The following are highlights from recent chapter meetings:

-Builders for Christ will be at MLC working on several projects May 29-June 8. Area churches will be providing noon meals for the 14 workers. (Our Hosanna group will be providing one meal).

-Board members are assisting the 4 area churches who expressed interest in going on Teens in Mission trips this summer.

-Faith in Action requests volunteers to assist

with canvassing in Hutchinson July 13-21. (Anyone interested can contact Marcia Derkowski for more information).

-Five WKW volunteers recently participated in canvassing 500 homes in St. James.

-Guidelines for Canvassing have been written up by board members and are available for any church interesting in a canvassing project.

-No action is taken at this time regarding Hispanic Outreach. Call day at WLS will determine the assignment given R. Concha. WKW will continue to support him another month as he awaits his call.

-Spring concert for missions will be held at MLC Auditorium Wed, June 5, at 7PM.



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid met on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. For a joint meeting with the Hosanna Circle. President Marlys Lochner presided. Pastor Draper led our devotion from Ephesians 6:10-24/ Paul urges to put on the full armor of God so we can stand firm against the devil's schemes.

We received a thank your from Christians Forward Southeast Asia for our \$100.00 donation. CFSA is a Wels sanctioned organization that makes medical humanitarian VBS trip to Thailand twice a year. In April Marcia Derkowski joined a group for this spring trip.

A report was given on the spring rally of the LWMS held at St. Claire on April 13. A full report was in our church's May newsletter.

Paula reported on the MLC Auxiliary meeting held here at St. John's on April 23. Forty-seven attended the meeting. The offering amounted to \$701.00. An instructor from the MLC Mandarin Program, Ting-ting Zahn was the speaker. The Ladies Aid paid the cost of the lunch, \$135.88. The Hosanna Circle prepared and served the meal.

Block 2 served for the Angel Kostoff funeral April 17th. Block 3 is up to serve.

The Ladies Aid plans to host a pie stand during the Sleepy Eye Corn Days in August. Watch for more details on this at a later date.



It was suggested we start our joint evening meeting at 6:00 p.m. We will have our next joint meeting in September.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 5th at 2:00 p.m. Come join us!

Marilyn Deibele
Secretary



Memorials

In Memory of Angel Kostoff

Dan & Debbie Hemming - \$25

In Memory of Eleonora Haber

Family & Friends - \$140

Arnie & Arlene Hinderman - \$10

Barb Lux - \$10